



A doggie Christmas

Christmas tradition at Bradford Animal Clinic.

3



Youth choir a-carolling

Bond Head United Church youth group goes carolling.

5



Happy New Year!

Goodbye 2014. Celebrating the arrival of 2015.

7

The Bradford Times

www.bradfordtimes.ca

\$1.50 GST Included

Thursday, January 1, 2015



Story and Photo by Miriam King, Bradford Times

South Simcoe Police Acting Sgt. Steve Black demonstrates the use of a new, compact roadside screening device.

The Festive Season R.I.D.E. (Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere) campaign continues.

At the end of the 3rd week of the Festive Season Ride campaign, South Simcoe Police had stopped a total of 3,678 drivers in spite of charges: 13 drivers are facing Drinking and Driving-related charges; 32 drivers received WARN range suspensions, and 11 persons were found to be in possession of a controlled substance.

Despite the annual campaign against Drinking and Driving, the Red Ribbon Campaign of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and ArriveAlive, the heart-rending stories of families torn apart by collisions involving drinking drivers, despite the fines and suspensions - some motorists

see R.I.D.E. Page 2

A look back at 2014...

Looking back, 2014 has been a year of change...

A year of losses to the community, with the deaths of community builders like Gerry Slykhuis, Bruce Keffler, Barbara Verney and Marlene MacPherson.

A year of gains, with the start-up of a new BWG Transit System and addition of new physicians at the BWG Family Health Centre, a satellite of the Southlake Family Health Team.

A year of transition, with the ouster of both Mayor Doug White and Councillor Carl Hondyk, and the election of a new team under Mayor Rob Keffler and Deputy Mayor James Leduc.

January

The year started with a pedestrian fatality on 10 Sideroad at the 14th Line BWG, in the pre-dawn hours of January 15. A 77 year old Meaford area man was walking in the Northbound lane of 10 SR - an area posted at 80 kmph - when a pick-up truck came over the rise, attempted to swerve to avoid the pedestrian, but struck and killed the man, who was not wearing reflective clothing.

But another story that made the news had a much happier ending. Fourteen year old Justin Carrier Copan decided to take a walk across the ice of Lake Simcoe to one of the islands, at about 2:30 p.m., on Jan. 16 - without telling anyone - but became disoriented on his way back, in the blowing snow and falling dusk. A massive search, launched after he had been gone for 4 hours ended successfully, after Justin used his cell phone to call police. He

see LOOK BACK Page 12



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Council asks for reports

In the new Bradford West Gwillimbury Town Council's first and

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By: Roch Beaulieu C.F.P.

It's true that money isn't everything, but it does come in handy when you've misplaced your credit cards.

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final full meeting of 2014, there were a number of requests for Staff Reports. Deputy Mayor Jan Leduc asked staff to investigate CAN - Community Access Networking - as a way for Councilors to keep in touch with constituents on a regular basis, instead of "once every 4 years."

And Councillor Peter Dykio Jr. called for a report on the number of dead trees on Bradford Boulevards, and "how this municipality... has fallen behind in different areas of Town. How we can better maintain, or replace dead trees." Dykio noted that at present, residents asking for replacement of a dead tree on the boulevard face a "major waiting list. It shouldn't be that way." He asked the Town to investigate partnering with the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority or South Simcoe Streams Network, to restore the urban tree canopy.

The Councilor also asked for an update of the Roads Needs Study. "There's lots of streets that have fallen behind," with sidewalks left unrepaired. Rather than contracting out all repairs, he urged the Town to "take some of that work in-house... To me, there's a better way of doing business, to get more for less."

His comments followed a complaint in Open Forum, from a resident of Ward 7, that the needs of the older area were being ignored.

"We in our community feel we are being left behind," David Bourgeois had told Council. "Year after year, there's no money in the budget," for issues that include road repairs, and replacement of aging and vulnerable hydro poles with underground servicing.

"It's a shame when you drive down Collings Ave. The street is in terrible repair," Bourgeois said - and in his 18 years as a resident, the trees have never been trimmed, or maintained. "I believe my neighbourhood deserves the same regard as any other neighbourhood."

The next meeting of BWG Council takes place January 20, at 7 p.m.

Festive Season R.I.D.E. Campaign

R.I.D.E. from Page 1

continue to get behind the wheel of a vehicle, after consuming alcohol.

And South Simcoe Police continue to set up R.I.D.E. checkpoints. In an effort to nab those drivers before they become a statistic.

"This year, we're picking different locations," said Acting Sgt. Steve Black - still setting up checkpoints on major routes like Yonge St., Big Bay Point, Innisfil Beach Road and Disette, but also targeting the "back roads," the routes motorists might take to "sneak home."

The hours of the checkpoints are also changing - not only late night and into the wee hours of the morning, but afterwards, looking for those who may have imbibed at a party and are on their way home from last-minute holiday shopping.

On December 23, the R.I.D.E.

unit set up a check on 10 Sideroad in Bradford West Gwillimbury. Just after 12:30 p.m. Six officers manned the checkpoint - armed with the new Alco Sensor PST roadside screening devices, by Intoximeters.

The new devices are smaller, more portable than the old machines, but "very accurate" - exactly the same as the Intoximeter back at the station," said Acting Sgt. Black and capable of detecting not only WARM Range Blood Alcohol Concentration levels of 0.05 to 0.08, but any level above 0.0 in a G1 or G2 Novice Driver, or driver 21 and under - also an infraction that can lead to a roadside suspension, of 24 hours.

Drivers who register a Blood Alcohol Concentration between .05 and .08 face a roadside suspension of 3 days, for a first offence; 7 days for a second occurrence - which

also includes a requirement to attend remedial alcohol education. For a 3rd or subsequent WARM Range charge within a 5 year period, motorists can receive a 30 day suspension, and be required to attend remedial alcohol treatment, and to have an ignition interlock placed on the vehicle for 6 months. A motorist may refuse to install the ignition interlock; in that case, the motorist can't drive until the condition is removed from their licence.

There is also a fine for registering in the WARM range. The enhanced Festive Season R.I.D.E. Program will continue, until January 5. Party-goers are reminded to plan ahead - to take a cab or transit, ride with a designated driver, or to stay overnight. No planning to drink. There's no excuse for planning to drink and drive.

Safe Roads, Your Call

It's not only R.I.D.E. checks that are targeting drinking drivers. Regular patrols are also keeping a watch for suspected Impaired drivers - and the general public can do its part, through the *Safe Roads, Your Call* campaign. A concerned citizen called South Simcoe Police to report a suspected impaired driver,

just after 2:20 a.m., on Dec. 22. Police were told the vehicle hit a curb, and drove through a red light, in Bradford. Officers located the suspect vehicle in the Walmart plaza and investigated the driver, a woman who displayed signs of alcohol consumption. The 20 year old King City woman was arrested and charged

with Impaired and Over .080. Her licence was suspended for 90 days, and her vehicle impounded for 7 days; she has a court date in January.

Safe Roads... Your Call. Treat impaired driving as a crime in progress, and call 911. Remember, distracted driving laws permit the use of a cell phone at call 911.

Unsafe Ice Warning issued by Police

With temperatures fluctuating above and below the freezing mark, the ice that has formed on area streets, canals, and on Lake Simcoe is thin - and unsafe. Police are advising parents to talk to their children about the hazards associated with bodies of water at this time of year - the dangers of thin ice, and of hypothermia, which can have deadly results. Snowmobilers and ice anglers are also warned to check with local ice hut operators before venturing out on the ice.

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A Doggie Christmas

Miriam King photo, Bradford Times

From left, Dr. David Alkesh, at the Bradford Animal Clinic, presents a Doggie Gift Basket to Marley, and owner Kurt Singer, on December 22 - a Christmas tradition.

Bradford Animal Clinic held its annual draw for its "patients" - giving away a Cat Gift Basket, and a Doggie Gift Basket, filled with products and treats.

Dog winner, 8 year old "Marley" came all dressed up for the holidays to pick up her prize, wearing a big red bow on her collar.

"This is our 8th Christmas we've had her," said Kurt Singer as he helped Marley accept her basket. "She's a human in dog form!" Winner of the cat basket was "Scinza", owned by the Miguero family.

Bradford Animal Clinic is located at 35 John St. West in Bradford.

OPP warn Commercial Vehicles

The Ontario Provincial Police have responded to 1,295 collisions involving commercial motor vehicles (CMVs), between November 1 and December 17 - even before the official start of Winter, on December 21 - clear evidence that not all CMV drivers are getting the message, to change their driving behaviours to match road and driving conditions.

In one recent collision, the driver of a tractor trailer drove into a bridge support, resulting in the truck jackknifing and leaking approximately 15,000 litres of diesel fuel into a creek. Trucks continue to ignore posted ramp speed advisory signs, failing to slow down on highway on-off ramps, often losing control and rolling over officers say. With winter now officially here, it is particularly important for CMV drivers to drive within the speed limit - and slow down, in poor weather, OPP say.

"It is imperative that EVERY person who drives a large truck recognizes the increased risks and social costs," says Chief Superintendent Chuck Cox, Provincial Commander of the OPP Highway Safety Division. "The risk of death and serious injuries is greater and the property damage and disruption to the movement of traffic are more extensive when these large load-bearing vehicles are involved in collisions."

Nine of the CMV-involved crashes investigated since November 1 have

resulted in loss of life. Since January 1, 2014, the OPP has responded to more than 8,850 collision involving a CMV - with 74 of those collisions causing death.

The OPP is calling on motorists to modify their behaviours, to avoid the "carnage" that occurred on Ontario roads last winter - when OPP investigated over 33,000 crashes. Driving on winter roads?

- **Adjust your speed, and slow down**, when visibility and road conditions deteriorate. Avoid non-essential travel during poor weather.

- **Activate your full headlighting system** throughout the winter months; it's the only way to continuously engage your rear lights, and reduce the possibility of being rear-ended during periods of poor visibility, as caused by blowing snow.

- **All motorists** need to remember that Commercial vehicles and large trucks need more room to stop and manoeuvre. Remember to leave plenty of room - and don't cut trucks and semi-trailers off, on area highways - especially in snowy conditions.

- **For the most up-to-date information on road conditions and road closures**, use the Ministry of Transportation's Ontario 511 Traveller Information Service. Ontario 511 is available as voice-activated hands-free service; otherwise, pull over to a safe location to use the service.

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Speaking for Success

Newmarket - The Area 14 Toastmasters' Humorous Speech and Table Topics Contest took place Oct. 11 at the York Region Administration building in Newmarket. Contestants came from local Toastmaster clubs that included

The Court of Blarney, Simcoe Shores, Speak for Success York-Simcoe, Newmarket Toastmasters and Troy Toastmasters.

Although attendance at the competition was down, the enthusiasm of the participants made the event an enjoyable experience, and the humorous speeches not only made the audience laugh, but gave the judges a hard challenge, in determining placement. After two rounds of judging, they chose Tania Ferus in 3rd place, Kim Chen in 2nd, and Lindsay Yaciuk in 1st place.



The Table Topics Contest - a spontaneous speech of 1-2 minutes on a last-minute topic - had 3 entrants. Doug Armstrong (Speak for Success Toastmasters), Rita Beechey and Lindsay Yaciuk drew numbers, to

determine the speaking order, and then left the room - returning, one by one, to be given their topic "Bliss". Rita Beechey placed 3rd, Doug Armstrong 2nd, and

Lindsay Yaciuk was 1st. The first and second place winners went on to represent Area 14 at the Division M Contest, October 25. **From left** - Contest Chair Annette Lavigne, 3rd - Tania Ferus, 1st in both Speech and Table Topics Lindsay Yaciuk, 2nd - Kim Chen, 2nd in Table Topics Doug Armstrong, and District Governor Leizly Sobrinho. Photo by Stephen Dow.

Watch out for Grandparent Scam

Warning: South Simcoe Police report that the "Grandparent Scam", a telephone scam that targets elderly residents, has resurfaced.

A Bradford woman received a call from a male who claimed to be her nephew. Calling from a blocked number, he told her that he needed money to get out of trouble.

After the victim wired money to a Quebec postal outlet, the suspect called back to request an additional sum, for bail money. It was only after she had dispatched the sum by courier to what she believed was a lawyer's office, that the victim called and spoke with her nephew. When he had no knowledge of the call or request for funds, the woman realized she had been scammed, and called police.

South Simcoe Police are urging the public to confirm information before responding to these calls (which often may begin, "Hi Grandma/Grandpa - do you know who this is?") and sending any money.

Protect yourself - see the Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre website, www.

antifraudcentre-centreantifraude.ca/english/home.html for information on this and other scams.

The Financial Services Commission of Ontario (FSCO) has learned that consumers have received loan offers claiming to be from Gonzalez Thomson Financial Services and FSCO. To secure the loan, consumers are asked to wire 600 euros to a bank.

Be advised: FSCO does not issue loans. FSCO is a financial regulator for the province of Ontario. Although the correct FSCO address is indicated, these agreements are NOT legitimate documents from FSCO.

If you have received an unauthorized FSCO "loan agreement" or want to report a supposed FSCO communication that may be a contravention of the law, send FSCO a copy, screen-grab or photo of the document, along with its location, date and time received, to contactcentre@fscogov.on.ca



Seniors' Drop-in program at the BWG Leisure Centre, for those 55 and older. The drop-in program is held Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon, in the downstairs common room - a well-lit space that offers Seniors an opportunity to socialize, enjoy refreshments, and make connections. Membership at the Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave., is not required. The drop-in program has proved to be popular with residents new to the community.

letters to the editor

Canadians can't afford another wasted year

To the editor: Looking back on the year, it is increasingly clear that Prime Minister Stephen Harper's priorities are no longer the priorities of Canadians.

His Conservative government has focused economic attention solely on its promise to introduce an expensive income-splitting scheme. Paying for it has trumped every other need.

Over a billion dollars for veterans' services have gone unspent, while the government closed 9 local offices - making it even harder to access a support system the Auditor General called "complex and time-consuming." Veterans who needed mental health services have been left waiting months, even years, to get help.

Spending on infrastructure projects through the Building Canada Fund has been cut by 90%.

Employment Insurance payroll taxes have been frozen at artificially high levels. Other taxes, such as some tariffs on imports, have gone up.

Public safety has been short-changed, from Search and Rescue to Food Inspection, and Rail Safety to Environmental protection.

All for the sake of income-splitting, which will cost the federal government a whopping \$2 billion a year, but will not benefit 85% if Canadian households. Single mothers and fathers, those who have the least, and couples with similar incomes, will get nothing. Among the few who will benefit, the largest benefit will go to those who need it the least. There is no reason why middle class families should have to pay to give families like Mr. Harper's a \$2000 tax break.

Worst of all, this scheme will do nothing to help with our economic outlook. Economic growth continues to be low, the job market sluggish, and household debt high. Federal mismanagement has left big projects like

the Keystone XL pipeline struggling to get going. Exports are only returning to their pre-recession peak.

Liberals have been hearing from Canadians that this is just not good enough. They are looking not only for a different government, but a better government.

We believe that a surplus built by Canadians should be invested for the benefit of all Canadians. That means investing in our people, our natural resources, our infrastructure, our trade and our drive to innovate. These are the things that made Canada successful in the first place. That is how we will restore growth and bring relief to struggling middle class families, and all those striving to get there.

Canadians can't afford another misspent year.

**Judy Foote, MP
Liberal Party of Canada Whip**

(Editor's note: We would suggest that there may be no "surplus." That the surplus has been artificially created by the Conservative government underspending its announced allocations - on infrastructure, on veterans' services, on the environment. We would also suggest that as long as the Conservatives hitch Canada's economic wagon to mere resources, and especially to the oil sands, it is in danger of getting bogged down - comparable to any Mastodon wandering into the La Brea tar sands.)

CONTACT seeks volunteers

CONTACT Community Services is currently seeking energetic and committed individuals with diverse backgrounds to serve on the Board of Directors. The non-profit, registered charity works to ensure everyone has employment, a home and a future. For more information, contact Sandra Mawby, Co-Executive Director, at sandra@contactsouthsimcoe.ca or 705-435-4900.

At the Bradford Legion

The Legion is here for Canada's Vets. There is support available for veterans and their spouses, whether at home, or in a nursing home or care facility. You don't have to be a Legion member to ask for assistance. Now,

New Year's Levee at The Danube Seniors Centre

The Danube Seniors Leisure Centre is located at 715 Simcoe Rd. south of Bradford. For information on programs and events at the Centre, call 905-775-0612 - or visit the new website, danubeseniorcentre.webs.com

Coming up: The President and Executive of the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre will be holding a **New Year's Levee** on Thursday, January 1, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Centre. Drop in to chat, and enjoy free refreshments!

Probus Club 2 meets

Bradford's Probus Club 2, a social club for retired and semi-retired Professionals and Business people, will be meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at St. John's Presbyterian Church, from 10 a.m. to noon. The guest speaker will be Marc Terrance of CHATS (Community & Home Assistance To Seniors), providing an overview of the agency. Coffee, tea and treats will be available, and new members are welcomed.

For more information, call Jill Sanderson, 705-290-0099, or Joanne MacLeod, 905-551-0942. The church is located at 2940 Sideroad 10.

Blood Donor Clinic

Holy Martyrs of Japan Catholic Church will be hosting a Canadian Blood Services Blood Donor Clinic from 3 to 8 p.m., in the Parish Hall, on Wednesday, January 21, 2015.

To book an appointment to give the gift of life, call 1-888-2-DONATE, or visit blood.ca.

Community Ride for Seniors

The new volunteer group, **We Are For Our Community**, is launching a "Community Ride" for Seniors, starting January 1.

We Are For Our Community Volunteers will be providing courtesy rides twice a week - from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Wednesday and Saturday - for Seniors who live in areas without bus service, and who lack the resources for other types of transportation.

To book a ride, Seniors can call 1-855-786-4294, at least 24 hours before the requested ride. Volunteers are also needed, and can call to get involved.

the definition of "Veteran" has been broadened to include RCMP officers or any Peace Officer on a special duty operation. Contact Veteran Services Officer Sean Griffin at 705-251-0208.

January 1 - come to the Legion, 115 Back St., for the **President's New Year's Levee**, 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship.

Note: Friday Night Social Time is cancelled for the holidays, on January 2 - although there will be Karaoke at 8 p.m., to welcome in the New Year.

Euchre, on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month. Registration starts at 1 p.m., play starts at 1:30 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

Monday and Thursday Night Fun Darts Leagues welcome everyone for darts, and fun! 7:30 p.m.

Do you want to stand behind our troops and veterans, enjoy comradeship and activities, and support youth programs in the community? Consider membership in the Legion or the Ladies' Auxiliary! For more information, contact 905-775-5025.

The Hall at the Legion is available at reasonable rates. Call the Branch at 905-775-5025 for details.

Carolling at Bradford Valley Long Term Care Centre



Miriam King photo, Bradford Times

Last year, the Youth Group from Bond Head United Church sang Christmas carols for the residents of Bradford Valley Long Term Care centre - and had so much fun, that they asked to come back.

On December 22, The Youth Group and Friends, including Rev. Diane Knowles, once again came out to share the joys of the season with Bradford Valley residents.

The Seniors are often overlooked at Christmas, said Beth Vanstone, whose daughter Madi is a member of the group. Music can be a powerful tool, she noted - "just bringing them back to their childhood" and memories of Christmases past - with songs about Decking the Halls, and Joy to the World.

In photo - Bond Head carollers don Santa hats, to sing for residents of Bradford Valley - and were joined by programmer Lisa Lloyd, at right, who came in on her day off to join in.



Happy New Year

It's worth the drive to Vaughan for great savings!

Wishing you and your family a safe and happy New Year! May your 2015 be filled with health, prosperity and be bigger and better than 2014!

From me and my family.
~ Frank Caietta
General Manager

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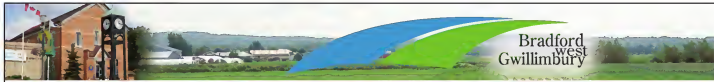
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TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS

Members of the public are invited to attend all Council, Committee of the Whole and other Committee meetings. Meeting dates, times, and agendas are available from the Town's website at www.townofbwg.com.

For further information or to request a deputization, please contact the Clerk's Division.

Regular Meetings of Council & Committee of the Whole – Council Chambers, 425 Holland St. W.

• Tues. Jan 20 @ 7:00 p.m., BWG Library & Cultural Centre, Zima Room

UPCOMING BOARD/COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Library Board

- Mon. Jan 19 @ 7:00 p.m., Boardroom, BWG Library & Cultural Centre, 425 Holland St. W
- Committee of Adjustment
- Wed. Jan 28 @ 6:30 p.m., Zima Room, BWG Library & Cultural Centre, 425 Holland St. W

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is now accepting applications for the following positions:

Day Camp Employment	Wastewater Co-op
2015-DC01	2015-WW01
Events Assistant	Water Co-op
2015-EA01	2015-WC01
Parks Maintenance	Building Co-op
2015-PM01	2015-BC01
Enforcement Co-op	Engineering Co-op
2015-ML01	2015-EN01

A complete description of job duties, qualifications and application instructions for these positions can be found on the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury website at www.townofbwg.com under the Employment Opportunities section; or at the Town's Human Resources office as listed below.

Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury, Human Resources Department
100 Dissette St, Unit 4 Box 100, Bradford, Ontario L3Z 2A7
Fax: 905-775-6633 or email hr@townofbwg.com

We thank all applicants for their interest; however, only those being considered for an interview will be contacted. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, personal information is collected under the authority of the Municipal Act, and will only be used for candidate selection.

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation will be provided in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.

NOTICES



TAKE NOTICE that the Town Administration Centre will be closed for the Christmas holidays on Wednesday, December 24th, 2014 to Friday, January 2nd, 2015. Regular business hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. will resume on Friday, January 2nd, 2015.

On behalf of the Members of Council and staff we wish you and your family a happy and safe holiday.



Lake Simcoe Region
Conservation Authority

What's Next for Scanlon Creek? - Draft Plan Released

There are more great things to come for Scanlon Creek Conservation Area. The plan includes a boardwalk, arboretum, interpretive signage and other new features!

Earlier this year, some of you shared your ideas for the future of this conservation area. Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) has released a draft Management Plan and is seeking your input once again. The plan is available at www.LSRCA.on.ca/planScanlon and comments can be submitted until December 31st, 2014 to Kate Lillie at 1-800-465-0437 x527 or K.Lillie@LSRCA.on.ca



NOV. 1 - MAY 1
2 AM - 6 AM

Winter On-Street Parking Restrictions NOW IN EFFECT

BWG By-Law 94-047
Section 6.2(e) as amended

From November 1 to May 1 of each year, parking is prohibited on roads in the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. regardless of whether there is snow present/expected.

The downtown crossroads are permitted to extra-hour parking to accommodate businesses that are open later. Parking is permitted until 3:00 a.m. only on:

- Holland Street West to Holland Court
- Holland Street East to Nelson Street
- Simcoe Road South to Centre Street
- Barrie Street North to John Street

Violators may be ticketed or towed. Also be advised that vehicles may not park blocking any portion of a sidewalk.

COMPETITIVE BIDS

RFQ #: Q-14-90C
Request for Quotation
For

Supply and Install Municipal Service Laterals and
Associated Works at 128 Barrie Street

Closing: 2:00:00 pm January 15, 2015

Tender documents may be obtained by registering for this opportunity on-line on the Town's Website as follows:

www.townofbwg.com/townsr/purch/compbidopp

COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is seeking applications from residents who are interested in helping our community by serving on a committee for the current term of Council. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older, a Canadian citizen and a current resident of Bradford West Gwillimbury.

The following positions are available:

- Appeals Committee
- Municipal Heritage Committee
- Active Transportation/Recreation Committee
- Downtown Revitalization Committee

If you are interested in applying for one of the above, please find further information and application instructions for these positions on the Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury website at www.townofbwg.com under Council & Committees. You can also call or visit the Town's Clerk's office (info at the bottom of this page) or email admin@townofbwg.com.

Bradford West Gwillimbury
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Contact Lillian Barlow at 905-775-7025 or email events@townofbwg.com for more details.

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New Year @ the Bradford Library

Registration for Children's programs in the new year begins January 7.

Mind Body Spirit - Reiki and Meditation, a free seminar with D.D. Gallant on Thursday, January 8, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Zima Room. Drop in - no registration required. Part



of a free series at the Library.

The **Roberto Rosenman Quartet** plays Jazz in the atrium on Sunday, February 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. - a free concert, as part of the Barrie Jazz and Blues Festival. **Photo: Corrine Donnelly's** shows. **Fairy Hoppings**, continues at the Library until mid-January.

Celebrating the New Year...

Tim Hortons First Night Celebration for families, at the Bradford West Gwillimbury Leisure Centre, 471 West Park Ave. In Bradford, on December 31, from 6 to 9 p.m. There will be Leisure Swimming and leisure skating, balloon animals, bouncy castles, hot chocolate and live entertainment, from 6 to 8:30 p.m., and a Fireworks Spectacular, at 9 p.m. to welcome in the New Year. While waiting for the fireworks to begin, David Cavan Fraser and Special K will entertain outside in Sunshine Square.

17th Annual Downtown Countdown in Barrie takes place on December 31, from 7 p.m. to midnight, outside the Barrie City Hall. Free skating at the circle at City Hall, horse-drawn wagon rides, face-painting, food vendors, and amazing live performances. Fred Penner entertains at 7 p.m. - and after the fireworks at 7:45 p.m. for the wee ones, hosts a Meet & Greet inside the City Hall Rotunda, at 8 p.m. Other entertainment includes The Alpaca at 8:15 p.m., Time Giant at 9:15 p.m., and Finger Eleven at 10:30 p.m. Fireworks and a countdown at Midnight to welcome in the new year! Free!

Tim Hortons First Night celebration at Newmarket's Magna Centre, 800 Mulock Drive, from 5 to 9 p.m. on December 31. Free skating and swimming, live entertainment, children's activities, horse-drawn wagon rides and the Tim Hortons Train - finishing up with fireworks at 9 p.m.

Innisfil Community Events Corporation hosts its annual New Year's Eve Family Skate at the Innisfil

Recreation Complex on December 31, from 5 to 7 p.m. - with food, skating, draws, and fireworks at 7:15 p.m., in the South Parking lot. Admission is \$5 for adults (over 16), and \$2 for children (15 and younger).

On New Year's Day, January 1, **Innisfil Mayor and Council** invite the community to a free skate and free family swim at the Innisfil Recreation Complex, from 1 to 3 p.m.

The President and Executive of the Danube Seniors Leisure Centre are hosting a **New Year's Levee** on January 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. Drop by to meet the Executive, enjoy free refreshments and share New Year's wishes.

The LeRoy-Belle Ewart Legion, on Robinson St. in Belle Ewart is hosting a **New Year's Levee** on January 1 from 2 to 5 p.m. Drop in for fellowship, and a luncheon of Beef on a Bun, Chili, Colelaw and refreshments.

The Bradford Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, 115 Back St. in Bradford, invites the community to the **President's New Year's Levee** on January 1 from 1 to 3 p.m. Refreshments and Fellowship.



New Year: A good time to quit!

It's New Year's.

Time to say goodbye to the old year and welcome in the new. Put up a new calendar. Make a resolution.

Among the most popular resolutions, year after year? To lose weight - and to quit smoking.

Quitting smoking is perhaps one of the toughest challenges. It's not just a matter of will power, making a decision and a plan - it's also a matter of overcoming physical addiction.

The Canadian Cancer Society suggests there are ways to help loved ones quit smoking, that don't involve nagging, guilt or judging - none of which have been shown to work.

Instead, the CCS says, bring up

smoking in a non-judgemental way that shows concern for their well-being. Try saying, "I believe you have the strength to quit."

And ask how you can help. Let them know that if they need anything, you will be there to help them find the right way.

Let them know, "I know you can do this, even if it takes several attempts. I really admire you for even trying. I'm here for you no matter what."

There are resources available, like the free Smokers' Helpline, at SmokersHelpline.ca or call 1-877-513-5333, to speak to a Quit Coach, and develop a personalized plan.

And this spring, there will be an added incentive to quit. The Driven to Quit Challenge is a health promotion: sign up by the end of February to quit, stay smoke-free all during the month of March 2015, and you will be entered for a chance to win a brand new car. See DrivenToQuit.ca for more information.

There's still time to get your 'Flu Shot

'Flu season is here - but the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit says

there is still time to get your flu shot. This year, the Health Unit did not schedule any clinics in Bradford West Gwillimbury.

Only three flu shot clinics were held

Upcoming, at Simply For Life

Simply For Life nutritional clinic, 157 Holland St. East, offers a number of events in the new year.

Jan. 4 - free Yoga class, for beginners to Yoga, 7-8 p.m. Bring your own mat. Space is limited, so please RSVP.

Jan. 10 - Free Nordic Pole Walking Clinic, by Master Pole Walker Shawn Nesbitt, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and 1 to 2:30 p.m. Free, no space and practice poles are limited, so please RSVP.

Jan. 11 - free Yoga class, 7-8 p.m., for all levels. Please bring your own mat. RSVP.

Jan. 18 - Kids Cooking with Love, 12 to 1 p.m. A kids' cooking class, featuring healthy Valentine's Day ideas, only \$10 per person, or \$15 per family.

Please RSVP for any or all events by contacting Gwen or Jennifer at 905-778-9988, or see SimplyForLifeBradford.com on Facebook.

in all of South Simcoe this year - at the Cookstown office of the Health Unit, during the month of November.

The resident Spokesperson Kathy Dermott explained that the Cookstown office is centrally located, midway between Bradford, Alliston and Tottenham - and that there are now so many different options for residents to get their flu shot, that it makes no sense to schedule the clinics, which require appointments. Last year, the Health Unit distributed 157,000 doses of the vaccine to doctors and pharmacies - but vaccinated only 5,700 individuals at SMDHU clinics.

In fact, she noted, pharmacies like Rexall, and the pharmacy at Zehr's Market in Bradford offer free flu shots on a daily basis - no appointment required.

She recommended that residents contact their family doctor or a participating pharmacy to get their flu shot this year.

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community listings

MEETINGS

SOUL SURVIVORS: A Cancer Support Community meets the 1st Weds. of the month at Trinity Anglican Church, 7:30 p.m. For cancer survivors and those currently experiencing cancer - a support group in a spiritual context, followed by a short contemplative service of healing. Contact Fr. Dan Graves, 905-775-2200.

COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN FOR CHILDREN (CAPC) PRO-GRAM NEW DATE: The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) is held Thursdays 1 to 3 p.m. at the Ontario Early Years Centre, Bradford Satellite, 118 Barrie St. For more information, call the CAPC Office at 905-775-1498.

AL-ANON: Meets Wednesdays, 8 p.m. Holy Marys of Japan Church basement, 167 Essa St. in Bradford. For

information, www.al-anon.alteon.org, wsoal@al-anon.org or call 1-888-AL-ANON.

SPEAK FOR SUCCESS TOASTMASTERS: Toastmasters meet on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tues. of each month upstairs at the new BWG Leisure Centre, 7:9 p.m. For information see www.speakforsuccess.org or call 905-775-1498.

WEEKLY BINGO: Inisfilis Lions Club hold a weekly Bingo, Monday, 5 p.m. doors open, 6:45 p.m. Bingo begins, at the Lions Hall on Inisfilis Beach Rd., Alcona. Refreshments available. For info call 705-436-1826.

HELP FOR IMMIGRANTS: Bradford Immigrant & Community Services (BICS) located at 11 Holland St. East offers English Language

Classes for Newcomers to Canada, Settlement Assistance, Integration to the Canadian School System Program, Parenting Workshops, Translation and Interpretation services, Information and referral, advocacy and more. 905-775-3343 or see www.bradfordimmigrant.com

BWG COMMUNITY MEAL: BWG Community Initiatives hosts a hot meal at 5:30 p.m. every Friday evening, at Bradford United Church, 66 Barrie St. in Bradford. All welcome - doors open at 5 p.m. Free.

ST. MICHAEL'S UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH: 721 Simcoe Rd., Bradford. Fundraising perogies and cabbage rolls sale every Saturday noon, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info call the church 905-551-1651.

WRITERS' CIRCLE: Write Writers' Circle now meets 7:9 p.m. on the 3rd Tues. of the month, at the New Bradford Library, 425 Holland St. W. All Writers welcomed.

SUPPORT FOR DEPRESSION: Support group meets every Friday evening at Bradford United Church, 66 Barrie St. Support for Depression meets 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. drop in, providing an opportunity for those experiencing depression or who have experienced depression to share coping strategies in safe, non-judgemental surroundings, assisted by empathetic facilitators. Organized by the Canadian Mental Health Association - completely anonymous. Enter the church through the Office door, off Barrie St.

GRANDPARENTS, PARENTING AGAIN: Support group for grandparents with formal

or informal custody of their grandchildren. Mondays at 10 a.m. at 1585 Alton Way, Centre Bradford satellite, 118 Barrie St., 1 to 3 p.m. Childcare available, call the centre at 905-775-3039 ext. 229 on the Friday before.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP: Meets at CHATS (Community & Home Assistance to Seniors), 448 Holland St. West in Bradford, on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the Month, at 10 a.m. An opportunity to get out, meet other caregivers, share stories and strategies, and find new ways to cope. Free, but register by calling Marc, 1-866-677-9048 ext. 6226 or email MTerrance@chats.on.ca

New to Genealogy? This is the perfect time to come and get help. All welcome. For information see simcoeboogs.com

SAT., JAN. 10

LITTLE CHEFS IN THE KITCHEN: Saturdays, 9:30 to 11 a.m., pre-schoolers will have fun in the kitchen at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Bradford, 118 Barrie St. Four week program, beginning Jan. 10, will include Storytime and Snack. Please pre-register by calling 905-775-3039 ext. 229 or see www.simcoecommunityservices.ca and clicking on Preschool Services.

TUES., JAN. 13

YORK-SIMCOE NATURALISTS MEET: At the River Drive Park Community Centre, 20 Oak Ave. in River Drive Park (north of Holland Landing), at 7 p.m. Guest speaker Ken Yogan will talk about the Biodiversity of Costa Rica. Lug a mug, for refreshments. For more information, see YorkSimcoeNaturalists on Facebook.

LIFE WITH BABY: A 6 week program at the Ontario Early Years Centre in Bradford, 118 Barrie St., begins Jan. 13 at 1:30 p.m. - for last-time parents and their newborns. Please pre-register at 905-775-3039 ext. 229 or see www.simcoecommunityservices.ca and click on Preschool Services.

SAT., JAN. 17

GEORGIAN DOWNS SNOPITCH TOURNAMENT: One-day tournament at Georgian Downs, sponsored by Sleemans, Labatt Breweries, and OLG Slots at Georgian Downs. \$275 per Mixed team, with guarantee of 3 games, \$10 slot play voucher for each player, and prizes for Division winners. To enter a team, contact Paul at 705-816-2633 or Terry, 647-226-7042. Only 24 teams!

TUES., JAN. 20

BUSINESS WOMEN'S NETWORK OF YORK REGION: The BWNWR hosts a Cocktail Party, Jan. 20, at Marlowe Restaurant & Wine Bar, 155 York Blvd. in Richmond Hill, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Members \$15 (\$20 at the door, for non-members \$25. Book at bwnwr.com/events/ to meet other like-minded Business Women.

The Big Play, to get kids into Hockey

On Dec. 22, Canadian Tire Jumpstart Charities and the Hockey Canada Foundation launched The Big Play - a new program designed to give the one in 3 Canadian families that can't afford to enroll their kids in organized sports, an opportunity to let their kids participate.

Over the next 3 years, the goal of The Big Play is to help approximately 10,000 kids between the ages of 4 and 18, register in Minor Hockey, and win the cost of equipment.

Jumpstart and its more than 330 local chapters across Canada, will work with Hockey Canada Foundation's 13 branches to bring the program to local minor hockey associations.

Families can get more information about applying for assistance by calling 1-844-YES-PLAY, or visiting jumpstartcanadian.ca. The Application process will open in mid-2015, for the 2015-2016 Season.

Standard First Aid classes

Is learning Standard First Aid one of your New Year's Resolutions? Simple First Aid, a partner of the Canadian Red Cross, is offering Standard First Aid Courses at Bradford Alliance Church, 758 Simcoe Rd.

• Sat. and Sun., Jan. 3 & 4.
• Mon. and Tues., Jan. 12 & 13
• Thurs. and Fri., Jan. 15 & 16
• Thurs. and Fri., Jan. 29 & 30
To register, contact Anita Hornings, Instructor/Trainer at 905-775-8204 or email anithorings@rogers.com

Bowl for Kids

The annual Bowl for Kids Sake for Big Brothers Big Sisters of York takes place Sunday, March 29 in Bradford, at The Bradford Underground Bowling Centre in Bradford Blvd. For details, or to sign up early see bigbrothersbigisters.ca or call 905-726-2149 ext. 309.



Springdale Christian Reformed Church
1466 Sideroad #5, Bradford.
905-775-3731
Sundays 10:00 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Sunday School & Nursery
Pastor Paul VanStralen
www.springdalecnc.net

Newton Robeson United Church
Hwy. 27 & Con. 10 Townships.
Service 9:30 a.m.

Bond Head United Church
Hwy. 58 east of Hwy. 27
Service 11 a.m., 5:00 p.m.
Sunday School available
905-775-5512

Trinity Anglican Church
62 Church St., Bradford
(Corner of Church & James St.)
Sunday Service 10 a.m.
Sunday School Available
905-775-2200
trinityanglicanchurchbradford.com

St. John's Presbyterian
2940 - 10th Sideroad
(8th Line & Midwestern SpR)
905-775-7274
Sunday Service 11:00 a.m.
Sunday School and Nursery provided.
stjohnspresbyterian.ca

St. Catherine of Alexandra Catholic Church
(Burdette Hwy.)
16 Heam St. Bond Head, Sunday Eucharist:
9:30am (Auricular), 11:30am (English)
905-775-8482
info@stcatherineofalexandria.ca

St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church
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Holland Marsh Christian Reformed Church
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905-775-2291
E: hollandmarshctr@rogers.com

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
53 Miller Park Ave., Bradford
905-775-9412
Sunday Service:
10:00 a.m.

Holy Martyrs of Japan Catholic Church
167 Essa St. Bradford 905-775-2065
Masses
Sat. 5:00 p.m., Sun. 8:30 a.m. 10 a.m.,
11:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
Confessions
1/2 hour before Sunday Mass

Bradford United Church
66 Barrie St.,
905-775-7288
Service - 10 am
Sunday School Available
www.bradfordunited.com

The Baha'i World Faith
905-551-2219
www.Baha'is.org

Bradford Community Church
Mid-week small group
905-775-8698, located on the S.E. corner of Hwy 11 & Con. #8
Sunday Worship: 10:30 am
Nursery - Birth to 5 yrs. Children 4-12 yrs

Riverview Bible Chapel
905-836-1798
402468 Belhurst (North of Hwy 11)
11:00 am - Family Bible Hour
1:00 pm Afternoon Service
7:30 pm Worship - Prayer - Bible Study

Greater Life Community Church
The Church in the Library
425 Holland St. W, Bradford
Christian Education: 10:30 am
Morning Worship: 11:00 am
(847) 718-7948
www.greaterlifeworld.ca

Fitness for Breath at the BWG Leisure Centre

The Town of Bradford West Gwillimbury is partnering with the Ontario Lung Association to offer Fitness for Breath, a specialized maintenance exercise program for people living with COPD or other chronic lung disease, at the BWG Leisure Centre.

COPD - Chronic Obstructive

Pulmonary Disease - is a respiratory illness that affects one in 9 Ontarians over the age of 35.

The BWG Leisure Centre, at 471 West Park Ave. in Bradford, is one of 8 sites in Ontario, selected to provide the Fitness for Breath program, which will include cardiovascular training combined with resistance exercises,

supported by qualified fitness staff.

The program will be available at the Centre on Fridays and Sundays in the new year. For more information or to register visit the Customer Service Desk. For more information contact Stephanie Uren at suren@townofbwg.com or 905-775-7529 ext. 8601.

Georgian Downs Sno-Pitch Tourney

The Georgian Downs 1-day Sno-Pitch Tournament returns - Saturday, January 17, at Georgian Downs racetrack in Innisfil. Cost to enter is \$275 per mixed team (each team must have at least 3 female players) - for a guaranteed 8 games, \$10 slot play voucher per player, and prizes for Division winners. Sponsored by Stearns, Labatt Breweries, and OLG Slots at Georgian Downs.

To enter a team contact Paul, 705-816-2613 or Terry, 647-226-7042. There is room for only 24 teams!

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In Memoriams In Memoriams

Never Forgotten FRANK LOTTO
JANUARY 4, 2013



Remembering you is easy I do it every day, but missing you is a heartache that never goes away. I feel warmth around me like your presence is so near. And I close my eyes to visualize your face when you were here. I endure the times we spent together and they are locked inside my heart. For as long as I have those memories we will never be apart.
All my Love - Carol
Remembered by family & friends



REYNOLDS, Wallace (Duck) - In loving memory of a dear Husband, Father and Papa, who passed away January 2, 2011.
As time goes by without you And the days turn into years They hold a million memories And a thousand silent tears To us you were so special! What more is there to say Except to wish within our hearts That you were here today.
- Lovingly Remembered by -
June, Gary, Cindy, Tara, Brandon & Tasha

Ontario Early Years Centre

The Ontario Early Years Centre-Bradford Satellite, located in the BWG Child & Family Services Building at 118 Barrie St., offers free programs and training resources to families with pre-schoolers. For information, please see www.simcoe.com/communityservices.ca and click on the Preschool Services button, or call 905-775-3039 ext. 229. Note: The Early Years Centre is closed for the holidays, and will reopen on January 5.

• **Life with Baby** - a 10 week program for first-time parents and their babies under 10 months of age, begins Tuesday, January 13 at 1:30 p.m. Pre-register.

• **How To Talk So Kids will Listen**

• **And Listen So Kids Will Talk**. A 6 week program on Thursdays, starting January 15, from 1 to 3 p.m. held in

partnership with the BWG Public Library, in the Zima Room. Please pre-register. Child Care will not be available.

• **Little Chefs in the Kitchen**, every Saturday morning beginning January 10, from 9:30 to 11 a.m. A 4-week program that includes a story, craft and snack. Pre-register.

• **Grandparents Parenting Again Support Group** meets every Monday at the Centre, from 1 to 3 p.m. - a warm, supportive environment for grandparents with formal or informal custody of their grandchildren.



Photo: Mom Shown helps "Gingerbread" houses out of Graham crackers, December 13 at the OEYC.

CAPC Programs closed for Holidays

The CAPC Program for pregnant and parenting Youth up to the age of 26, will be closed for 2 weeks, starting December 22. The program reopens on Thursday, January 8.

The Mother Care/Next Step Program for pregnant and parenting Women with children up to 24 months old

will be closed for 2 weeks, starting December 19 and reopening on Wednesday, January 7.

Both programs are held at 118 Barrie St., at the Bradford Satellite of the Ontario Early Years Centre. For more information, call 905-775-1496. All programs are free, and confidential.

French as Second Language registration

The Simcoe County District School Board is offering French Immersion and Extended French as Second Language at selected schools throughout the County. FI is available for students beginning in Grade 1; EFLS begins in Grade 5 and is offered at 10 elementary schools and 8 secondary schools. Information sessions and registration will be held in January.

W. H. Day Elementary School on Maplegrove in Bradford will be hosting an information session for parents on **Wednesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.**

French Immersion application forms will be available online at www.scsd.ca (under Programs, French as Second Language) on January 19 and 20 only. Extended French as Second Language forms will be online January 21 and 22. Those who do not have home internet access should contact their school for assistance.

One application form must be completed for each child to be registered. While EFLS is an open access program, and all applications will be processed, FI numbers may be limited, by space and staffing available.

Christmas Bird Count for Kids

The Notawassaga Valley Conservation Authority hosts its second annual Christmas Bird Count for Kids on January 3, from 9 a.m. to noon at the Tiffin Centre for Conservation, 8195 - 8th Line of Essa. The Count begins with a mini-workshop on bird identification. Birders with the Bretonnet Field Naturalists will then guide families on a bird count hike through the forests of Tiffin. The data collected will be submitted to Bird Studies Canada, and included in the national Christmas Bird Count for Kids database.

Please pre-register by December 30, at www.nvca.on.ca and click on Events & Education. Parental supervision required for young children. A \$5 registration fee per child includes entrance to the Conservation Area, and hot chocolate for kids and accompanying adults.

Look back at 2014...

LOOK BACK, from Page 1

Had just received the phone from a friend, the day before. By 8 p.m., the teen was back on land, at Innißfild Beach Park, being wrapped in blankets and promised hot chocolate.

On January 15, the York-Simcoe Provincial Liberal Association nominated Loralene Carruthers as their candidate in the upcoming June 12 Provincial Election, in an effort to unseat long-time MPP Julia Munro. Carruthers lost – but came closer of any Liberal candidate in years.

Bond Head resident Paul Burston received the Order of Ontario from the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration on January 23, in recognition of his more than 40 years of community service. Burston has worked with people with developmental disabilities through Christian Horizons, and is a strong advocate for northern First Nations Communities.

February

In February, Bradford hosted its first BradfordFest event, with participating restaurants providing special menus and meal deals to lure diners out of hibernation. The event was successfully organized by promoter Ricky Brooks, although the name had been registered about a decade earlier for community builder, Herman Brown.

Policing was a hot-button issue in 2014 – with Bradford West Gwillimbury asking OPP to provide a costing for police services, and Innißfild complaining that it was overpaying by up to \$1 million per year through the existing cost sharing agreement. In the end, the decision was made to stick with the South Simcoe Police Service, under Chief Rick Beazley and encourage the Chief to continue to find cost efficiencies. But in February of 2014, the cost sharing agreement between BWG and Innißfild was changed. Operating costs continue to be divided based on population, number of households, and total assessment, with Innißfild paying \$3.89% and BWG paying 46.11% of the costs – but capital costs will be split, 50-50.

On Feb. 14, South Simcoe Police Deputy Chief Al Cheesman retired, after 41 years of service – first with York Regional Police, and with the local Municipal Police Service. He was there for the full evolution, from Bradford Police Service to BWG Police in 1991, to South Simcoe Police in 1996-97.

On the 15th, residents found out how much extra Simcoe County's new county-wide Yard Waste and Christmas Tree collection services cost them in 2013, over and above what they were already paying for Waste Collection: approximately \$35,000 for the year. That's because the Christmas trees were picked up early, and Spring Yard Waste Collection all took place before the May 24 long weekend, the unofficial start of gardening season – with no further collection until fall. In

fact, yards were still snow-covered for the first two collection weeks. Residents ended up setting out yard waste bags at curbside that sat there, until the Town picked up the bags to clean up the mess. There's still no summer yard waste collection, but the County did "adjust" its curbside collection schedule, to start later in the year. There was a huge police presence in Bradford on Feb. 19, as, acting on a tip, officers searched for Bradford resident John Jensen – wanted in connection with a death in York Region, on Feb. 12. Jensen was arrested without incident – and on April 14, PC Steve Black and K-9 Officer Brett Jacques and Police Service Dog "Chase" received commendations for their roles in the capture.

March

On March 3, 12 year old Madi Vanstone brought her fight to have OHIP cover the cost of Kalydeo to Queen's Park. Madi has Cystic Fibrosis, but fortunately is in the 3-4% of CF sufferers for whom Kalydeo is an effective treatment. Unfortunately, the cost is prohibitive – even with assistance from the Pharmaceutical company and private insurance. The Vanstones were looking at an annual bill of about \$60,000 a year – and had been the province that coverage under OHIP was "not cost effective." Madi, with support from Simcoe-Grey MPP Jim Wilson, put a very human face to the issue, and eventually helped to change the mind of the Liberal government.

March 8 was International Women's Day, and for a 9th year the Portuguese Cultural Centre of Bradford hosted a women-and-girls-only Appreciation Dinner and Dance, that was sold out. This year's theme was Mardi Gras, with a fashion show by Elmwood Bridal of Aurora, and the Pink Closet in Bradford.

March 14-16, Bradford hosted the ONMA Minor and Major Bantam "AAA" Championships, at the BWG Leisure Centre – a showcase for the top triple-A teams. BWGMA teams are single-A. On March 24, the new BWG Family Health Centre opened its doors at 160 Holland Court, the former old Bradford Library. The 10,400 sq. ft. of space had been transformed into a modern medical clinic, housing local doctors Dr. Susan Kuzmyk, Dr. Andy Tsang and Dr. Mabel Hsin; Lifelabs Medical Laboratory Services (formerly CML Health Care), but also a satellite of the Southlake Family Health Team, providing a multidisciplinary approach to medicine, and eventually attracting at least 3 new doctors to BWG.

Also in March, Emerald Ash borer was confirmed in Simcoe County – months after the insect pest, deadly to all ash trees, had been identified in BWG. In fact, Bradford West Gwillimbury had already begun treating some of the 200 ash trees identified on municipal property, in parks and on boulevards, and had set aside \$50,000 in the 2014 budget for "forestry." The money would

treat another 91 large diameter trees; treat or replace 47 mid-sized trees, and remove and replace 67 small ash trees.

April

Flags were raised in Bradford West Gwillimbury in April. On April 2, for the first time, BWG raised the flag for World Autism Awareness Day, in large part due to the efforts of Paul and Nicole Taylor, parents of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. And on April 13, the Sikh community gathered in front of the Court house to raise the Khalsa Flag.

On April 11, Provincial Minister of Culture and Tourism, the Hon. Michael Chan visited Bradford to tour the BWG Public Library and Cultural Centre, which was built with infrastructure funding. He was impressed by the building, and by the statistics: in a municipality of 32,000 people, there are 22,000 library card holders.

Hairstylists protested their inclusion in the new Ontario College of Trades, established by the McGuinty Liberals in 2009 – calling it another level of bureaucracy, an additional "tax" on stylists, and a barrier to employment. Stylists, who attend salon school and receive training, are now required to have a Grade 12 diploma, pass a written test (at a cost of \$150 plus HST), and pay an annual fee of \$120 to belong to the college. On April 22, the "Cut the Salon Tax" Protest came to Bradford, with support from Simcoe-North MPP Garryan Dunlop, and York-Simcoe MPP Julia Munro. The Province later advised that trades, except for those "designated", can opt out of participation in the College of Trades.

On April 26, the Bradford Board of Trade held its Town & Country Living Show at the Bradford & District Memorial Community Centre, 125 Simcoe Rd., a 1-day showcase of local Businesses, services, and the Arts – and admission was free. This year's Town & Country Living Show will take place at the Community Centre on Saturday, April 25, 2015; to reserve a booth or sponsor the event, contact Bradfordboardoftrade.com

May

After months of planning and anticipation, the new BWG Public Transit system was launched on May 1. Initially, the service was established to operate between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., 5 days a week (Mond-Fri.), on two routes – a "shuttle" service that runs along Holland St. from the GO Transit station to Walmart, with side trips to the Seniors' condo on Holland Court, and housing on Miller Park Ave., and a community route that winds its way through town, through residential neighbourhoods. After repeated complaints and requests, the bus service was extended, to start 2 hours earlier at 7 a.m.

To be continued...

Remember this?



Miriam King photo, Bradford Times

Cathy Topp McLean of Zumba in Da House, got dunked for a good cause at Bradford's Ribfest, on September 20, 2014. The Dunk Tank was a fundraiser for BWG Community Initiatives, which runs the weekly BWG Community Meal at Bradford United Church. The dunk tank raised \$1,180 for the organization in just 4 hours.

What is it?



Sculpture by Andrea Romanick, titled "Steam Punk Bee Competition", won 1st prize in the Great Big Beeton Bee competition sponsored by the Beeton-Toftenham Business Improvement Association. The sculpture, and other entries, were on display at Beeton's Honey & Garden Festival, May 24, 2014.